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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NIC 825-83 31 January 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: The NFIB Representatives

FROM:

Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT:

Postponement of SNIE

- 1. I have elected to postpone the SNIE on Syria-USSR: Expanding Relations, which appears on the production plan for the first quarter of 1983. The fast track SNIE on <u>Soviet Policy in the Middle East and South Asia under Andropov</u> scheduled for NFIB consideration on 31 January has dealt with the most pressing and time-sensitive issues of the Syrian-Soviet relationship -- that is, Soviet and Syrian motivations for upgrading significantly Syrian air defense and communications as well as likely Israeli reactions.
- 2. The broader issues of Syrian-Soviet relations (including, particularly, the political aspects, including regional ramifications) still are an important subject for a Community estimate, but I have decided to postpone work on that paper until the second quarter of 1983. By that time, the Community will have had a chance to evaluate the near-term consequences of Soviet activities in Syria and will be able to take a longer view of the trends in the relationship, and the implications for the United States.

Henry S. Rowen

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